Policy Issues

The following policy issues are presented for consideration as part of the proposed FY 2013-14 budgets.

- 1. Harris County will continue to focus on building reserves to maintain financial stability, maintain current high bond ratings and continue to reduce the need for short-term borrowing under tax anticipation notes. A recommendation will be provided to court during the first quarter of FY 2013-14 for the issuance of tax anticipation notes.
- 2. A report on the roll over budgets will be presented to court in April or May, a report on capital projects and long-term debt will be held on June 25 and Mid-Year Review will be held on September 24.
- 3. Budget Management will conduct a review of salaries including elected officials and appointed department heads and bring back recommendations by Mid-Year Review.
- 4. A new Council will be established to address the coordination of health services and allocation of resources to mental health, public health, incarcerated health and the hospital district.
- 5. Budget Management will work on a project with representatives from county departments and the city of Houston to develop recommendations for a new joint processing center to improve the processing of inbound and outbound individuals to better match needs with available resources or services. A review of the existing facilities for the Sheriff, Community Supervision and other departments that will be affected by a new processing center will be conducted by PID.
- 6. Budget Management and Purchasing will review the Fleet Services program and bring back recommended changes in policy.
- 7. A review of the workload of justice of the peace courts will be conducted to improve the balance between courts and recommendations will be brought back to court.
- 8. New cost centers will be set up for repair and replacement expenses in PID (department 035), FPM (department 297) and ITC (department 293) with the initial funding being established with roll over funds.
- 9. A long term funding strategy for the Sports & Convention Corporation will be developed to provide appropriate resources to fund expenses related to Reliant Stadium and all of the other facilities at Reliant Park.